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course of publication, having reference to the object of the society, were recommended to the general notice of its members. The Committee then proceeded to nominate the following subjects for the Prize Poems and Essays, to be prepared for the *Eisteddod* to be holden at Brecon, in the course of this year; and for which medals or other premiums will be awarded.

1. The Awdl.—“The memorable period, during which our most Gracious Sovereign George the Fourth exercised, as Regent, the powers of Government over the United Kingdom, commencing with the debarkation of the British Troops in Portugal, and terminating with the Glorious Victory on the Field of Waterloo.”

2. The Cywydd.—“The overthrow of the Egyptians in the Red Sea.”

3. The Englyn.—“The Rainbow.”

4. An English Essay.—“The Credibility of the Massacre of the British Nobles at Stonehenge, as grounded upon the authority of the Welsh Bards, and other ancient writers; and of the identity and real character of the celebrated British leader Ambrosius.”

5. Another English Essay.—“The Ancient and Present State of the Welsh Language, with particular reference to the Dialects.”

In addition to the foregoing, prizes were also proposed for the best proficients on the Harp, for the best Singer with that instrument, and also for “the best Copy of Verses, in the Welsh language, on a subject to be proposed on the first day of the *Eisteddod*, and the verses to be recited on the second.”

We have only to add to the preceding account, that the spirit and judgment, with which the primary proceedings of the CAMBRIAN SOCIETY IN GWENT have been conducted, reflect great credit upon the gentlemen, who have so zealously exerted themselves on the occasion, and are well worthy of general emulation.

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#### CELTIC MSS. IN DUBLIN.

It is well known to the admirers of Celtic literature, that Trinity College, Dublin, contains a very extensive collection of

MSS connected with this subject, and especially with reference to the ancient history and literature of Ireland. With the exception of the occasional use made of them by E Llwyd, Vallancey, and a few others, these ancient records (for such is their general character) have been turned to very little account; and, from the indifference with which they are treated by the persons, who have at present the charge of them, it may reasonably be concluded, that their value is not properly understood by them. A late number of one of the Dublin Journals (*The Dublin Evening Post*), in an article on the general inferiority of Trinity College, in a literary point of view, to the English and Scotch Universities, has some observations on the subject, to which we have just alluded, which we willingly transplant to these pages.

"But the most crying disgrace," says the journalist "of this college of ours is this. With one, or, perhaps, two exceptions, their library contains the completest collection of Celtic MSS in Europe. Most, if not all, of these MSS relate to Ireland. They are preserved, we suppose, very carefully; but this opulent, this overgrown, University\* never has expended a single sixpence in transcribing, publishing, or translating them. There are no funds for that purpose, it will be said; and we shall be told (and we rejoice in it) of the failure of the claim on Hood's estate †. Shame! Would not the revenues of your Connemara estates do the thing in three years? We do not like Scotch nationality or the overweening pretensions of the people; but with respect to literature and love of country, they are a pattern and example to the empire. If these remains of antiquity belonged to Scotland, they would have been published in fifty forms, and in fifty editions, before the year 1821."

Although we may not fully subscribe to the last sentence of this passage, we still think, that the Scotch evince a much more national feeling in this respect than the Irish. Yet, we are not aware, that even the Scotch have done much in this way. We hear indeed of the Highland and of the Hibernian Societies; but,

\* The writer of this article asserts, that "the fellows of Trinity College, five or six and twenty in number, taken altogether, enjoy a greater revenue than all the fellows of all the Colleges of Oxford and Cambridge." ED.

† We believe this refers to a bequest, which was left by one Flood for the purpose of publishing the MSS in question, and which was afterwards set aside by the relations of the deceased.—ED.

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when we come to look for their acts, we find nothing in either case of a very tangible shape. However, *meliors ! speremus.*

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### Literary Announcements.

THE Second Number of Mr. PARRY's "WELSH MELODIES" has, as we mentioned in our last, recently made its appearance, and will tend, we have no doubt, to enhance the well earned reputation of its ingenious author. Of the musical part of the work we may not, perhaps, be considered as competent judges; but we must be allowed to say, that it appears to have been Mr. Parry's principal aim, in this respect, to adhere to the characteristic simplicity of our national airs, and consequently to discard those foreign embellishments, by which they have, in general, been so injuriously disguised. On this point the author very properly observes—"I have purposely avoided all extraneous modulations and chromatic passages, that the accompaniments may be performed on the harp as well as the *piano-forte*; besides, had I travelled out of my way for such commitants, it would not have been in keeping with the simplicity of the melodies." The melodies comprised in this collection, are sixteen in number, and the words adapted to them are, for the most part, highly appropriate and poetical.—This praise is particularly due to the compositions of Mrs. HEMANS, one of which we inserted last month, and another appears in the present Number. To this we may add, that the frontispiece by Mr. H. F. ROSE bespeaks the talent of the artist in the most unequivocal manner, and forms a happy embellishment of the work. The design represents a Druidical *cromlech*, very tastefully grouped with ancient oaks, the harp, and other appropriate emblems of our native soil. In a word, this new Number of the "WELSH MELODIES" cannot fail to augment at once the fame of the author, and the entertainment of all those, whose souls are formed for concord of sweet sounds," and who take any interest in the sweet and unadulterated airs of the CYMRY.

We understand that the "REPORT" of the Carmarthen *Eisteddfod* in 1819 will speedily be published, accompanied by the Essays and Poems, which gained the prizes on that occasion. "Better late than never" is a sound maxim; we, therefore, hope, that the intelligence, we have here communicated, will not prove destitute of foundation.

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